

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 FDRE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 DODE-00 EB-08 HEW-04  
USIE-00 L-03 H-01 AGRE-00 XMB-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15  
SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IGA-02 PRS-01 OES-06 INT-05  
MED-02 COME-00 NSF-01 /152 W  
-----151614Z 040703 /47

O P 151418Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2175

INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 696

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 1875

FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF (OFDA)

EUR/EE FOR ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO

SUBJ: EARTHQUAKE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 1783; (B) BUCHAREST 1774

1. SUMMARY. ON THE BASIS OF OUR CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF  
LEGISLATIVE FACTORS AND THE INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED  
FROM THE ROMANIANS I WOULD RECOMMEND A TWO-STAGE PACKAGE  
OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATIONAL ASSISTANCE PRIMARILY HUMAN-  
ITARIAN IN CHARACTER. FOR THE FIRST PHASE, WHICH I BELIEVE  
WOULD NOT REQUIRE EXPRESS CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, I WOULD  
URGE ASSISTANCE IN HOSPITAL RECONSTRUCTION, HOUSING, AND  
EARTHQUAKE MONITORING. MY PROPOSED SECOND PHASE WOULD  
INCLUDE AN UNDERTERMINED QUANTITY OF FOOD AID AND CCC  
CREDITS, MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN EXIM LENDING, AND A  
CONGRESSIONAL DETERMINATION OF ROMANIAN ELIGIBILITY AS A  
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SOURCE FOR OFF-SHORE AID PROCUREMENT. WHILE THESE  
AID ELEMENTS APPEAR APPROPRIATE NOW, THERE MAY OF COURSE  
BE NEED TO MODIFY THEM. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND I  
SUGGEST THAT THE SECRETARY BE PREPARED TO STATE  
IN HIS FOREIGN AID TESTIMONY THAT WE ARE EXAMINING  
THE NEED FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND WE  
HOPE FOR CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR WHATEVER MEASURES

APPEAR NEEDED.

2. IN VIEW OF THE SECRETARY'S IMPENDING CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON FOREIGN AID LEGISLATION I AM OFFERING PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE RELATING TO THE ROMANIAN EARTHQUAKE. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS OUR BEST INITIAL APPRAISAL IN THE ABSENCE OF GREATER INFORMATION FROM THE ROMANIAN SIDE AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT'S PROMISED EXPLANATION OF EXISTING LEGAL AND REGULATORY RESTRAINTS.

3. ASSESSING THE NOW-COMPLETED EMERGENCE RELIEF PHASE, WE CAN BE JUSTIFIABLY PLEASED WITH OUR EFFORT. WE MADE OUR OFFERS PROMPTLY AND, ASSUMING THERE IS NO DELAY IN THE SHIPMENT OF THE NON-FAT DRY MILK, OUR DELIVERIES WILL HAVE BEEN TIMELY. WHILE NOT AMONG THE TOP DONORS (ROMANIA'S NEIGHBORS HAVE RESPONDED WITH UNANTICIPATED GENEROSITY), THE VOLUME OF ASSISTANCE WE HAVE EXTENDED DEMONSTRATES OUR GENUINE CONCERN.

4. IN MY VIEW THERE IS MORE THAT WE CAN AND SHOULD DO. ASIDE FROM THE LOSS OF LIFE AND TOLL OF INJURED, THE EARTHQUAKE HAS INFLICTED SUFFERING ON THOUSANDS OF OTHERS. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, OVER 7,000 FAMILIES LOST THEIR HOMES. WE HAVE LEARNED LARGE NUMBERS OF SCHOOLS WERE HIT AND THAT SEVERAL HOSPITALS HAD KEY SECTIONS RENDERED LARGELY INOPERABLE. INITIAL ESTIMATES OF ECONOMIC LOSSES ARE PLACED AT 6 BILLION LEI, (AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RATE EQUIVALENT OF 1 BILLION DOLLARS WE ARE TOLD) BUT WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THE FINAL TALLY WOULD BE MUCH HIGHER. DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTION UNITS COULD WELL HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF FOOD OVER THE COMING MONTHS. THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY VIEW, THEREFORE, THAT A FURTHER ASSISTANCE ON OUR PART IS WARRANTED FROM PURELY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WHATEVER CONTRIBUTIONS WE MAKE WILL HAVE THE FURTHER BENEFIT OF PRESERVING ROMANIAN INDEPENDENCE, WHICH IS THE PARAMOUNT OBJECTIVE OF OUR POLICY.

5. THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WOULD ASSUREDLY WELCOME ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU SIGNALLED HIS RECEPTIVITY TO UNITED STATES AID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST FRIDAY. ALTHOUGH THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD MANIFESTLY PREFER THAT WE SERVE AS A SOURCE OF SOPHISTICATED INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT AND CONCESSIONAL CREDITS, I THINK FOLLOWING MY CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU LAST THURSDAY THAT THERE IS A SOMEWHAT

GREATER APPRECIATION ON THE PART OF THE ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP AS TO THE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE WE CAN PROVIDE. THERE IS STILL A GOOD DEAL OF HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL RESPOND MORE FULLY THAN WE HAVE SO FAR IN ORDER TO MEET LONGER TERM NEEDS.

6. FROM THE LISTS THAT MACOVESCU HAS PROVIDED I BELIEVE THERE ARE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF IDENTIFIED ROMANIAN NEEDS OF A HUMANITARIAN CHARACTER TO PERMIT US TO CONSTRUCT AN APPROPRIATE PACKAGE OF REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE TO SUPPLEMENT WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE. I HAVE CONSCIOUSLY SOUGHT TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THIS AID "VISIBLE" TO ENSURE IN THIS CLOSED SOCIETY THAT THE POPULATION WILL SEE THE EVIDENCE OF OUR HELP. MY PRESENT INCLINATION IS TO DIVIDE THIS PROPOSED PACKAGE INTO TWO PARTS, ONE WHICH WE CAN HOPEFULLY IMPLEMENT WITHOUT NEW LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND THE SECOND, WHICH WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEEM TO US TO REQUIRE AN APPROACH ON SOME LEVEL TO THE CONGRESS.

7. THE FIRST PART OF PACKAGE, I.E. THAT WHICH WE WOULD HOPE WE COULD UNDERTAKE WITHOUT SEEKING SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION UNDER EXISTING DISASTER RELIEF AUTHORIZATIONS, WE WOULD ENVISAGE AS CONCENTRATED IN HOSPITAL RECONSTRUCTION, IN HOUSING, AND IN EARTHQUAKE MONITORING. SPECIFICALLY, OUR RECOMMENDATIONS IN THESE AREAS WOULD BE:

A. HOSPITAL RECONSTRUCTION. WE BELIEVE THAT WE MIGHT ASSIST IN REBUILDING CERTAIN BADLY DAMAGED SECTIONS OF BUCHAREST HOSPITALS IDENTIFIED BY THE RMO (BUCHAREST 1783). WE WOULD SUGGEST, FOR EXAMPLE, REEQUIPPING THE CARDIAC CARE UNIT OF THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, REBUILDING THE CARDIAC LABORATORY IN THE FUNDENI HOSPITAL, AND PROVIDING PEDIATRIC INCUBATORS TO THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

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MED-02 COME-00 NSF-01 /152 W

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O P 151418Z MAR 77 ZFF-1  
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2176  
INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 697  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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B. HOUSING. OUR PREFERENCE HERE WOULD BE TO OFFER SOME EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF EARTH-QUAKE RESISTANT BUILDING COMPONENTS. ALTERNATIVELY, THERE ARE ITEMS FROM AMONG THE LIST OF NEEDED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, THAT WE WOULD PRESUMABLY BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPLY. BEFORE WE COULD MAKE THIS RECOMMENDATION MORE PRECISE, WE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ON THE USGS/NBS TEAM AND WITH ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES.

C. SEISMOLOGICAL MONITORING. WE WOULD URGE A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION, PERHAPS THROUGH NSF, WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE OUR PROVISION OF SEISMIC EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRAINING OF SEVERAL ROMANIAN SCIENTISTS IN U.S. IN THE OPERATION OF MODERN SEISMOLOGICAL MONITORING SYSTEM, AND AN INFORMATION-SHARING SYSTEM. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE MAKING THIS

ASSISTANCE CONTINGENT ON A ROMANIAN COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE AT LEAST SOME MATCHING FUNDS (FOR LOCAL COSTS), TO MAKE THE SCIENTISTS AVAILABLE FOR WHATEVER TRAINING PERIOD IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NECESSARY, AND TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM FOR THE REGULAR FLOW OF DATA TO U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS PROPOSAL WITH THE USGS/NBS TEAM IN COURSE OF THIS WEEK TO REFINE IT FURTHER.

8. FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE PACKAGE, THAT INVOLVING A CONGRESSIONAL BLESSING, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THE EXERCISE OF MAXIMUM EXIMBANK FLEXIBILITY GRANT FOOD AID AND A POSSIBLE CCC CREDIT LINE, THE AMOUNT OF WHICH WOULD DEPEND UPON THE GOR'S PROVISION OF QUANTITATIVE DATA; AND, AS A TOKEN GESTURE, CONGRESSIONAL DETERMINATION OF ROMANIAN ELIGIBILITY TO BID ON AID OFF-SHORE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS.

A. MAXIMUM EXIM FLEXIBILITY. WE PROPOSE AN EFFORT TO HAVE RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR AN EXIM POLICY TO COVER 55 PERCENT OF DIRECT CREDITS FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO THE RECOVERY EFFORT AND TO PROVIDE GUARANTEES FOR UP TO 85 PERCENT OF FINANCING.

B. FOOD AID. WE WOULD URGE THAT WE FURNISH SOME EDIBLE SOY PROTEIN ON A GRANT BASIS, THE QUANTITY DEPENDENT UPON A ROMANIAN CLARIFICATION. LIVESTOCK LOSSES DUE TO DESTRUCTION OR SEVERE DAMAGE TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY UNITS WILL, IN TIME, AFFECT THE LOCAL SUPPLY OF FRESH AND PROCESSED BEEF, AND EDIBLE SOY PROTEIN WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE THIS. SECONDLY AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF ROMANIANS CAN DOCUMENT THE EFFECT OF THE QUAKE UPON THEIR AVAILABILITIES FOR BOTH DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND FOR EXPORT OF OTHER FOOD COMMODITIES, SUCH AS WHEAT FLOUR, EDIBLE OIL, AND DRIED BEANS, WE WOULD URGE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF A CCC CREDIT.

C. SECTION 604 OF FAA. ONE SMALL, LARGELY SYMBOLIC ACT THE CONGRESS COULD PERFORM IS TO DECLARE ROMANIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELIGIBLE AS AN AID PROCUREMENT SOURCE UNDER SECTION 604 OF FAA. AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI WHEN HERE IN AUGUST 75 SAID HE WAS IN FAVOR OF REMOVING THE PRESENT RESTRICTION THROUGH A CLARIFYING COLLOQUY ON THE FOREIGN AID LEGISLATION. THE PRESENT SITUATION WOULD SEEM TO OFFER AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO STIMULATE THAT CLARIFICATION.

9. BY OFFERING MY RECOMMENDATIONS AT THIS FAIRLY EARLY STAGE I WOULD NOT WANT TO FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF LATER MODIFICATIONS. THE PACKAGE I HAVE RECOMMENDED IS A FAIRLY LEAN ONE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE OPTION OF ADDING ANY ITEMS THAT SEEM TO ME TO MERIT POSITIVE U.S. CONSIDERATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE MAY BE ELEMENTS OF OUR REQUEST WHICH OTHER DONORS WILL FILL OR WHICH ROMANIANS WILL DECIDE TO FINANCE ON THEIR OWN. IN ANY EVENT I WOULD NOT WANT TO RULE OUT FOR EXAMPLE THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR CONCESSIONAL CREDITS TO ROMANIA TO FINANCE PURCHASES OF SOME ELEMENTS OF THE FIRST PART OF THE ABOVE PACKAGE IF DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT OR IF THAT LEGISLATION DOES NOT PERMIT ASSISTANCE ON A SIGNIFICANT SCALE. ASIDE FROM THE HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, WHICH I BELIEVE JUSTIFY OUR PROVIDING RECONSTRUCTION TYPE ASSISTANCE I SEE AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY IN THE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE WE PROVIDE TO SHOW THAT OUR SUPPORT FOR ROMANIAN

INDEPENDENCE MEANS NOT JUST SUPPORT FOR THE CEAUSESCU REGIME  
BUT ALSO FOR THE PEOPLE OF ROMANIA. IN THIS SENSE,  
I BELIEVE, USEFUL AS OUR PROMPT FIRST RESPONSE WAS,  
WE HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT FOR THE U.S. HUMANITARIAN  
CONCERNS GO BEYOND THE PERIOD WHICH GETS THE HEADLINES  
AND THE TV ATTENTION.

10. SO FAR AS IMMEDIATE CONGRESSIONAL ASPECTS ARE CONCERNED,  
WE HAVE HEARD TODAY AN UNCONFIRMED FOREIGN RADIO REPORT  
THAT SENATOR JAVITS HAS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION REGARDING  
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AID FOR ROMANIA. SENATOR KENNEDY HAS ALREADY MADE A STATEMENT  
THAT HE IS PREPARED TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION.

11. FOR THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY AS WELL AS IN CONNECTION  
WITH ANY CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES, I RECOMMEND THAT HE STATE  
A) WE ARE LOOKING CAREFULLY AT THE INFORMATION WE HAVE  
RECEIVED FROM THE GOR TO SEE IF THERE ARE SOME AREAS  
WHERE THE US GOVERNMENT COULD HELP FURTHER; B) IF THERE IS A  
NEED FOR LEGISLATION, WE HOPE CONGRESS WOULD TAKE A SYMPATHETIC  
APPROACH.  
BARNES

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** EARTHQUAKE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE  
**TAGS:** SWEL, EAID, RO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c5fa80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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22 May 2009  
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